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**NSC BRIEFING**

**INDONESIA**

- I. Contest between army and civilian elements for political control of country is continuing with Nasution and the army recently losing some ground.
- A. Nasution has ambitious plans for greater policy role in government, wants increased number of officers assigned to key executive, legislative, diplomatic posts.
  - B. Army hopes steer Indonesia down middle path between Communism on left and Moslem extremism on right.
  - C. Army already has broad powers under martial law and representation in cabinet and other government posts.
- II. Meeting early this month (5 Dec) between Sukarno and cabinet apparently failed to satisfy army's hopes.
- A. [ ] participants decided against at least one of Nasution's plans--appointive legislative seats.
  - B. [ ] Sukarno and cabinet also decided to transfer authority over regional barter trade from Nasution to cabinet itself.

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- IV. Nasution likely to face increasingly stiff opposition from diverse sources.
  - A. Communists have already warned of "dangers" inherent in growing army influence.
  - B. Other political parties fear heavy suppressive hand of army on their activities.
  - C. Air Force and Navy chiefs also increasingly aware of Nasution's ascendance which at very least erodes their prestige.
- V. Sukarno favored Nasution in recent months as counter-balance to growing Communist strength.
  - A. He may now see in Nasution's increasing stature a threat to his own pre-eminence and remove him.
    - 1. It already seems apparent that Sukarno moving to reduce Nasution's powers.
  - B. There is ~~already~~ rumor that persons loyal to Sukarno are plotting to get rid of Nasution; such planning could have been stimulated by Sukarno.
  - C. There also rumors Nasution may be planning remove Sukarno; even though rumors may be baseless, they could have galvanizing effect on Sukarno who certainly knows of them.

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